Met Office Hadley Centre appoints new head

17 October 2011 - The Met Office is delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Stephen Belcher as Head of the Met Office Hadley Centre.

One of the world's foremost climate change research centres, the Met Office Hadley Centre is co-funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It provides guidance to Government and businesses on the science of climate change.

Chief Scientist at the Met Office, Professor Julia Slingo OBE, said: "The Met Office Hadley Centre has a world-wide reputation in climate science and I am delighted that Professor Stephen Belcher will be adding his expertise and leadership in support of our vital work. Stephen is among the very best of the UK's atmospheric scientists and I am looking forward to working with him."

Stephen has held key science leadership roles at the prestigious Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading and has pursued a highly productive research career at Reading, Stanford University in the USA and the University of Cambridge in the UK. Stephen is currently the Joint Met Office Chair at the University of Reading, which is part of the Met Office Academic Partnership, launched in 2010.

Stephen said: "I am very excited to be joining the Met Office Hadley Centre and to be contributing to its world wide reputation in climate science. To be the Head will be exciting and a privilege."

Stephen will take up his Met Office Hadley Centre leadership responsibilities from January 2012, and will continue, part time, his work at Reading into the effects of climate change on cities and the role of the oceans in climate.

The acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading, Professor Tony Downes, said: "We are proud that Stephen is to take on this challenging new role whilst keeping a part-time appointment at Reading. We look forward to an even closer collaboration between the Department of Meteorology here and the Met Office Hadley Centre."

Stephen's scientific interests include atmospheric and oceanic turbulence, boundary layer meteorology, especially urban meteorology and the impact of climate change on urban areas. Stephen has won a number of awards including the Smiths Prize, University of Cambridge, and the Rosenstiel Award for Oceanography, University of Miami.

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